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M26Lw39 Montana
1962

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Land & water, Powell County, Montana.



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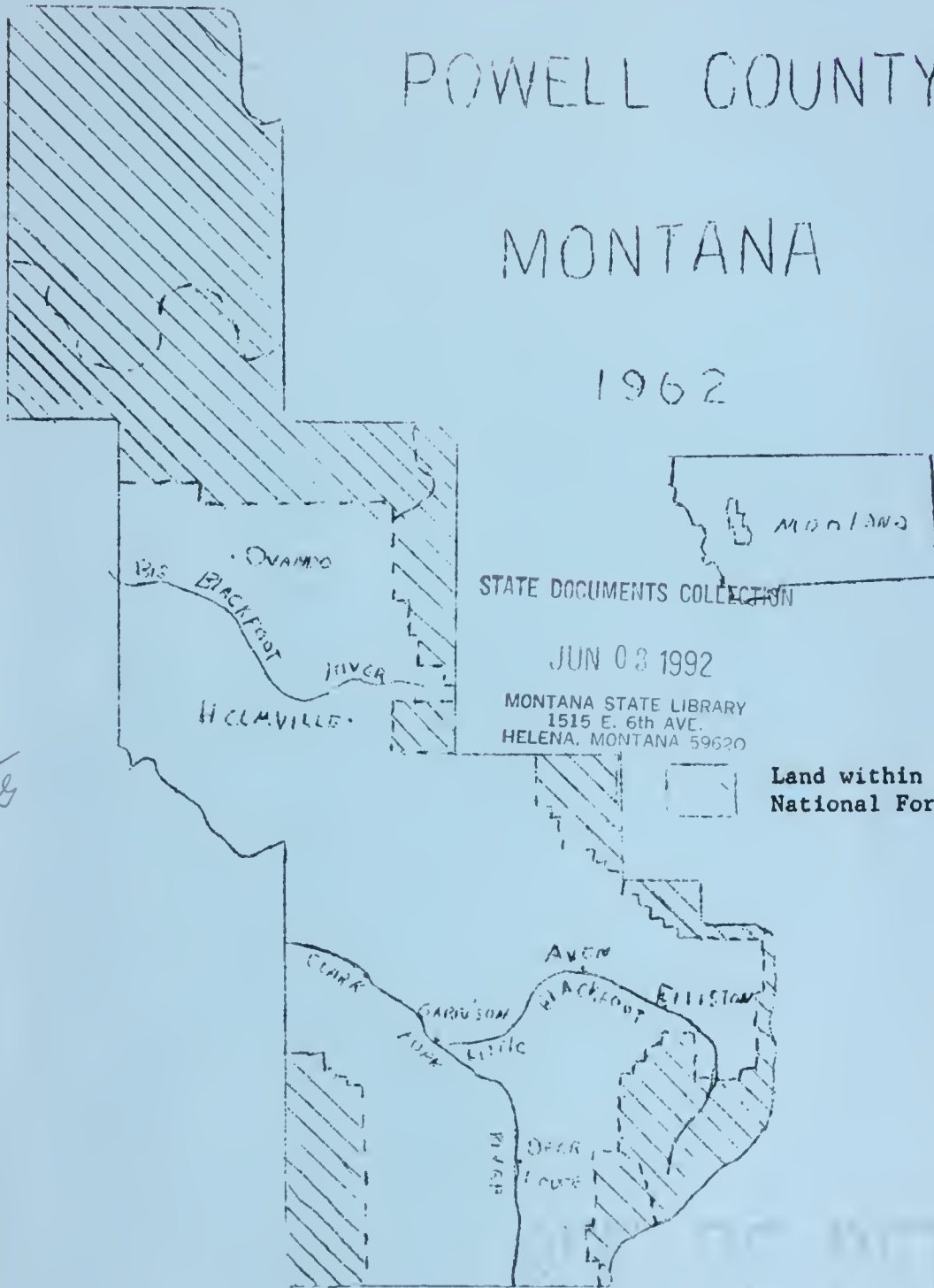
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LAND & WATER

POWELL COUNTY

MONTANA

1962



Approximate scale - 1 inch = 12 miles

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<u>Land Use</u>	<u>Acres</u>
Total Acres in Powell County	1,495,680
Federal land	711,388
Towns, Roads, Water, etc.	18,500
Soil & Water Conservation Needs	765,792

Land Use Today & Expected by 1975

1960

1975

Irrigated Cropland

30,000

31,477

There will be an increase of irrigated cropland.

Dry Cropland

15,000

13,800

Most of this acreage will be from new irrigation developments on dry land.

Range

298,642

300,722

Total acreage of range will increase. Marginal dryland crop land will be reseeded to range land and some wood land will be cleared.

Tame Pasture

5000

6799

Tame pasture will increase slightly.

Irrigated Native

20,000

19,374

Irrigated native pasture will decrease.

Forest & Woodland

393,000

392,570

Other Land

4150

4230

Other lands includes lands taken out of farms for rural living highway, etc.

Public lands sold to private enterprizes accounts for the difference between 765,792 and 768,972.

Problems & Needed Treatment

Irrigated Cropland	31,477 Ac.
82% or 25,834 Ac. needs treatment	
1. Erosion is dominant problem on	11,433
2. Excess water is dominant problem on	1,958
3. Unfavorable soil is dominant problem on	12,443
Dry Cropland	13,800
68% or 9,327 acres needs treatment	
1. Erosion is dominant problem on	6,600
2. Unfavorable soil is dominant problem on	2,727
Total Grassland (range,tame pasture,irrigated native)	326,895
95% or 311,096 acres need treatment	
1. Needs reseeding	10,574
2. Improvement (deferred grazing primarily)	55,500
3. Protection of vegetation from:	
A. Overgrazing	228,500
1. Needs stockwater	80,500
B. Protection from fire	273,000
C. Erosion control	600
D. Rodent control	2,900
E. Enroachment of plants	35,200
F. Insect & disease control	60,500
4. Water Management	
A. Excess water	14,000
B. Water conservation	1,000
Forest and Woodland	392,570
1. Needs establishment	40,000
2. Needs stand improvement	16,000
3. Needs protection from:	
a. Fire	300,000
b. Insects & disease	125,000
c. Animals	4,000
4. Erosion control	9,000
5. Establishment of shelterbelts (3 miles)	25

WHY THE INVENTORY?

This inventory was made in Powell County to find the amount of conservation needed on the land to maintain or improve our top soil. With the population in this country on the increase conserving our top soil is becoming more important as time passes.

HOW COMPLETED!

The inventory was initiated in 1957 by the Secretary of Agriculture to more effectively plan and carry out its responsibility in soil and water conservation. It is based upon soil surveys from 16 A sample areas selected at random. Soil survey samples were expanded to show the land changes that will be taking place by 1975.

WHO TOOK PART IN THE INVENTORY!

This inventory was prepared by the Powell County Needs Committee. The committee consisted of representatives of the U. S. Forest Service, Soil Conservation Service, Agricultural Conservation Program Service, Extension Service, and Soil & Water Conservation District Supervisors.

WATERSHED INVENTORY

What was Done

The natural drainages were divided into units of 250,000 Ac. or less. These watersheds were studied by the conservation needs committee to determine treatment needs and possible development by a small watershed program or by local group action.

What it revealed

The watersheds in Powell County are mainly timber and rangeland. There is some erosion in areas of the drainages from overgrazed rangeland. There is a need for late season irrigation water and better management of the present supply.

Five small watersheds have been determined feasible developments by individuals will be slow. Action by small groups is anticipated for improving irrigation and drainage facilities.

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